

“Tell me and I'll forget;  
show me and I may remember;  
involve me and I'll understand.”  
Chinese Proverb

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### ***More Bang to your Buck Activities on Cheape***

- **P.D. Objective:** To practice a variety of interactive zero-prep activities using dollar store items.

#### **Items**



#### **Applications**

**Fly swatters** – Use them for group competitions. Divide the class into two groups and have a volunteer from each group to come up to the board. It works well with activities that require two or three possible answers. Write the answers on the board and ask questions. The student who knows the answer swaps it on the board before answering it. Example: Much or Many (sugar, problem, homework, furniture, etc.)

**Ball** – Use it for textbook activities or homework review. It is a good way to choose who is answering the next question. Let the student throw the ball on the person s/he decides should be next.

**Post-it** – The remember notes without the stick part work better. They are useful for any activity that promotes interaction among students. Give them time to write down a sentence/question based on the language point learned in class. Ask students to move around the classroom and ask their questions. They should not let the other students read their notes. Another possibility is to shuffle their post-its.

Example: Write down something you could do in the past. e.g.:  
When I was 3 I could run naked around the house. Now ask someone if they could do the same thing. Could you run naked around the house when you were 3?

**Dice** – We know they work really well on card-board games. Other applications are: deciding who is going to be the “volunteer”, who talks first, who starts a reading activity, etc... One other possibility is to use dice for a casino with grammar points, for example.



**Collour tokens** – You can let the tokens decide your groups in class. Let students pick a token (without looking at them) and form the groups based on the collours. Group 1 – yellow, Group 2 – red, and from there on.



**Hotel Bells** – They are perfect for Jeopardy fans. Use them on homework review or test reviews. It is also a good tool for vocabulary reviews. One suggestion is to have students preparing questions, instead of the teacher.



**Flash-cards** – You gotta love them! Instead of doing the work yourself let your students work harder. Ask them to write down questions for a review day. Or use the flash cards in a variety of ways based on exercises on your textbook. Example: When learning verbs followed by gerund and infinitive, divide the class in groups. Give every group a different collour of flash cards, and let them write down the verbs followed by one category and write sample sentences using those verbs.



**Timers** – They are great little tools. Timers work well for writing activities, timing students on brainstorming, for example. They also work for group challenges and jeopardy activities. By setting a time, students focus on the task, and tend not to lose their concentration.



**Colored Paper** – To break out the monotony of white paper, use some bright colored paper for different activities. Drawing, origami, designing posters, writing paragraphs, etc. They can be easily adapted to activities in the textbook.

Draw your own tool

